

KING COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner	Christine Landon	District I
Vacant		District 2
Commissioner	Kris Meilahn	District 3
Commissioner	Barbara Hurst	District 4
Commissioner	Justin Patrick Walsh	District 5
Vacant		District 6
Commissioner	Kim Nguyen, Vice-Chair	District 7
Vacant		District 8
Commissioner	Antonio P. Cube, Sr.	District 9
Commissioner	Hubert Sims, Chair	District 10
Vacant		District 11
Commissioner	Antonio Wyatt	District 12
Vacant		District 13
Commissioner	Alice Griffin	At-Large
Commissioner	Steve Saunders	At-Large
Commissioner	Mario Morales	At-Large

The King County Civil Rights Commission was established in December, 1995 to take a strong leadership role in raising community awareness and involvement on civil rights issues and to advise the King County Executive and County Council on matters related to the County's civil rights programs. Its primary goal is to ensure equal opportunity for all through the effective enforcement of anti-discrimination ordinances and implementation of the County's civil rights programs. The Commission works in collaboration with a variety of interest groups including community, business, civic, and religious organizations.

The Commission has sixteen members each serving three-year terms. County Council members representing each of the King County Council districts nominate thirteen members, while the remaining three serve as at-large members, selected by the County Executive. All Commission members are confirmed by the County Council and serve without pay. It is the goal of the County to recruit people from diverse ethnic and protected group backgrounds. The Commission seeks representation from the African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, Caucasian, Gay and Lesbian, and Disability communities. Commissioners reside within King County.

As the County's citizen advisory commission on civil rights, the KCCRC is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the effectiveness and progress of the County's affirmative action, non-discrimination enforcement, and minority/women business utilization programs. It is also responsible for educating the public and concerned groups on methods to prevent and eliminate discrimination and advise King County government on human and civil rights issues. The Commission periodically issues formal reports on its findings and makes formal presentations before the King County Council on a semiannual basis. The ordinance creating the Commission also established four standing committees through which most of the work of the Commission is accomplished. The committees are Executive, Public Policy, Economic Development, and Community Relations. In 2004, after review and discussion, it was determined that the four committee model was not working given the number of Commissioners appointed. The Commission decided to create a Committee-of-the-Whole in lieu of the Public Policy. Economic Development and Community Relations committees, to allow Commissioners to work together on projects. The Committee-of-the-Whole combines the Community Relations, Economic Development and Public Policy committees. The Executive Committee is still functioning.

The Executive Committee "performs administrative oversight activities of the commission, including representing the commission, conducting business outside of regular commission meetings, and performing other relating and necessary activities in the interest of ensuring an effective County human and civil rights commission." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (A).

The Public Policy Committee "shall review and make recommendations on legislation, public rules and/or policies related to any of the County's equal opportunity, affirmative

action, disability access and minority and women's business utilization programs." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (B).

The Economic Development Committee "reviews and makes recommendations for enhancing opportunities for utilization and participation of minority and women businesses on County contracts and other related business development activities." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (C).

The Community Relations Committee "recommend[s] methods for educating concerned communities and the public at large on the work of the Commission and King County in advancing human and civil rights for all in the region and shall establish liaison with other regional and civil rights commissioners." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (D).

In December 2003, Hu Sims was elected Chair, Kim Nguyen was elected Vice Chair and Christine Landon was elected as an at-large member of the Executive Committee, all to take effect on January 1, 2004. During this year, the Commission, under Hu Sims' leadership, accomplished a significant number of achievements. They include:

<u>Performing Other Relating and Necessary Activities In The Interest Of Ensuring an Effective County Human and Civil Rights Commission:</u>

- ➤ During 2004, the Commission continued its series of "Community Conversations" whereby the Commission invited representatives from various community organization representatives to speak on issues of concern to King County's ethnic, racial, gender and disability communities, in order to develop a more cohesive, culturally sensitive and educated Commission. Presenters included Ibrahim al-Husseini, Member of Iraqi Community Center Board and Former Director Arab-American Association of Washington; and Greg Castilla, Ph.D., member of the Filipino Community on "Civil Rights and the Filipino".
- ➤ In February, the Commission was given a presentation by Bill Huennekens, Superintendent of Elections. Commissioners shared their concerns about the County Election process, provisional ballots, the competence of poll workers, the use of Choicepoint as a contractor and the potential of purging registered voters from the election rolls. This better acquainted the Commission with how the County Elections Office functioned. This meeting was a joint meeting of Civil/Human Rights organizations with representatives from the SeaTac Human Relations Committee and the Renton Human Rights and Affairs Committee.
- In March, the Commission listened to a Presentation by Chris Varas of the ACLU on the US Patriot Act.
- In October, the Commissioners participated in internal discussions on Race and Race Relations after viewing the Film, "The Way Home".

Review And Make Recommendations On Legislation, Public Rules And/Or Policies Related To Any Of The County's Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Disability Access And Minority And Women's Business Utilization Programs:

- Update on OCR Omnibus Civil Rights Ordinance: In October, Bailey delongh, Manager of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) provided an update on the Omnibus Civil Rights Ordinance.
- Citizen Complaints against the King County Sheriff's Office: The Commission reviewed the Office of Citizen Complaints reports on citizen complaints about members of the King County Sheriff's Office.
- Review of Proposed 2005-2006 EEO/Affirmative Action Plan: Over several fall meetings, the Commission reviewed and provided comments and feedback to Maria Batayola, Manager of the Hiring and Diversity Management Office in the Human Relations Division.

Review and Recommendations for Enhancing Opportunities for Utilization and Participation of Minority and Women Businesses on County Contracts and Other Related Business Development Activities

Review of King County Contracting Opportunities Proposed Administrative Rules: In September, the Commission reviewed a draft of the King County Contracting Opportunities Proposed Administrative Rules and made recommendations to the Office of Business Relations & Economic Development.

Educating Concerned Communities and the Public at Large on the Work of the Commission and King County

<u>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration & Essay Contest:</u> The students selected were: Monica Thomas, Washington Middle School, Seattle School District, first prize winner of \$100; Cassie Lear from Washington Middle School, Seattle School District, second prize winner of \$75 and Supriti Jaya Ghosh of Washington Middle School, Seattle School District, and third prize winner of \$50. The Commission Administrator again represented the Commission on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee.

Co-sponsored the Second Seattle Race Conference: The Commission continues to be a co-sponsor of this event, designed to begin to create a shared understanding and language about the nature of racism, its modern day forms and the tools that can be used to end it, and to activate a "movement" for racial justice in Seattle that includes sustainable action components. Two Commissioners, Hu Sims and Kim Nguyen, served on the planning committee. The actual conference took place in May 2004.

- Co-Sponsored the "Asian Pacific American (APA) Community Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement": In May, the Commission co-sponsored this event which was held at the Tacoma Dome.
- Co-Sponsored Beyond Talk Redrawing Race: Along with numerous other organizations the Commission co-sponsored this groundbreaking museum exhibit on race at the Wing Like Asian Museum
- Participated in John Stanford/MLK Unity Parade: Several Commissioners and the Administrator Participated in the 2004 John Stanford/MLK Unity Parade in the Central District of Seattle.
- OCA "Project Stop Hate" Hate Crimes Workshop Kickoff: In December, the Commission co-sponsored this event, aimed at youth and families, joining with the OCA to partner with Orcas Elementary School to put on a play about Brown vs. the Board of Education.
- Relationship with King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO): In 2004, the Commission continued to have a positive working relationship with the King County Sheriff's Office, due to the efforts of Chief Fabienne Brooks, who acted as a liaison between the KCSO and the Commission, and Chief Richard Krogh, who replaced her.
- Attended the Washington Working Group Meetings: Commissioners Meilahn and Morales attended a few of the meetings. The purpose of this group was to improve community relations with the different law enforcement agencies in the region.
- → Held their November 17th Commission Meeting at Wing Luke Asian Museum:
 The Commission met at the Wing Luke Asian Museum, allowing Commissioners to view Beyond Talk Redrawing Race_ the exhibit on race that they had cosponsored, and to learn more about the Japanese-American community in the Pacific Northwest.
- Provided Facilitation of Community Dialogues on Race: Commissioner Barbara Hurst and the Commission Administrator continued to act as facilitators for the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Urban Enterprise Center's "It's Time to Talk" dialogues.
- Commissioners and the Commission Administrator met and/or networked with the following community organizations during 2004:
 - 1. Urban Enterprise Center Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

- 2. Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Seattle
- 3. Japanese American Citizen's League Seattle Chapter
- 4. Japanese American Citizen's League Lake Washington Chapter
- 5. The American Civil Liberties Union
- 6. Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- 7. NAACP Seattle Branch
- 8. Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington
- 9. Asian Resource Center (ARC)
- 10. Seattle Race Conference Planning & Steering Committee
- 11. King County Labor Council
- 12. Wing Luke Asian Museum
- 13. Arab-American Community Coalition
- 14. Asian Counseling & Referral Service
- 15. Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
- 16. Iraqi Community Center of Seattle
- 17. Vietnamese Professional Association

Establish Liaison with Other Regional and Civil Rights Commissioners:

➤ In February, the Commission sponsored a joint meeting of Civil/Human Rights organizations attended by representatives from the SeaTac Human Relations Committee and the Renton Human Rights and Affairs Committee.

Administrative:

 This year two new Commissioners were appointed: Justin Patrick Walsh in District 5 and Antonio Wyatt in District 12. There were still vacancies in Districts 2, 6, 8, 11 and 13 at the close of the year.